

## HACKERS BRIEF

from CyberWyoming

### SHERIDAN CITIZEN REPORTS PUBLISHER'S CLEARINGHOUSE EMAIL

Publishers Clearing House is a well-known sweepstakes and there is no cost to participate. Hacker's know this and steal the brand name to create scams. An email was reported in Wyoming with the subject line of "December 30th is approaching. What is your decision?" The email was from a website address called lbdmessage.com (which doesn't exist) but spoofed as "\*\*PCH Sweepstakes\*\*". The branding and pictures in the email are very convincing and claim you won \$5000 a week for life, but CyberWyoming Alliance found a similar scam reported by the Better Business Bureau in South Dakota where a man replied, then received numerous phone calls and was asked to pay taxes to unlock the prize. The man made several 'tax' payments using MoneyPak cards. MoneyPak cards are often used as gift cards. Remember that legitimate companies never ask you to pay in gift cards or prepaid debit/credit cards. The scam was also reported by Forbes in the past week.

### NOTHING ADDS UP

A Sheridan citizen reported an email from Liz Gordon at a ZF-sourcing.com email address, which when typed into a browser, redirects to zerofees.com. Zero Fee Solutions is a legitimate company in Michigan that has a 1 star customer review rating from the Better Business Bureau even though they are A+ rated. They provide credit card merchant services, which goes along the lines of what Liz Gordon is offering. But Gordon's signature line had an address in Florida and a completely different phone number. The subject line is "A please call me this evening" and the wording is just a bit off, indicating that the email may not be a native English speaker. Nothing makes sense in this email, so just delete it!

### AARP ALERT ONLINE SHOPPING PRACTICES

More than 75% of US consumers reported they have experienced some kind of fraud when shopping online and when AARP initiated a safe online shopping quiz the same percentage failed. Remember that the AARP Fraud Watch Network has a helpline at 877-908-3360 and any age can call. Tips from AARP:

- If the discount is deep, it is probably fake. It's easy to set up a website.
- Foil the porch pirates and pick up your packages at the delivery location.
- Use the gift cards you receive quickly and, if purchasing a gift card for someone else, purchase it directly from the retailer online. Cards on the store racks can be manipulated.

### BE AWARE OF BAIT-AND-SWITCH SCAMS

Scambusters.org encourages you to learn about the top 5 bait-and-switch scams that are being reported online.

1. Employers & Gig Workers – Tricksters have wormed their way into the employment field by sending someone that appears to be skilled and knowledgeable to the interview only to learn later that the certifications and experience aren't up to the tasks.
2. NFTs (non-fungible tokens) & Collectibles – Verify the seller because scammers are advertising a valuable item but sending a cheap knock-off.
3. Loans & Rentals – Low teaser rates often are impossible to qualify when reading the fine print and consumers get stuck with much higher rates when it is too late to back out.
4. Computer Software & Apps – Often scammers advertise free software with such limited functionality you can't use it. Read the fine print and look for reviews, specifically on how to cancel monthly billing.
5. Travel Hotels & Rentals – Watch for hidden fees like 'resort fees', 'maid service fees' and more.

### NOT SPECTRUM

If you buy your TV, internet, or cellular service from Spectrum (or Charter as it used to be known) don't be taken in by a poorly worded email with unusual typography saying your statement is ready. Of course, there's a link to click in the message but this could take you to a fake sign-on page or even upload malware onto your PC. This scam email is currently doing the rounds across the US. Just don't click. Brought to you by scambusters.org.

### MS-ISAC AND CISA PATCH NOW ALERT

The Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) or the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has published a patch now (update your software) alert for Fortinet's operating system (FortiOS), Citrix's ADC and Gateway, VMware's vRealize Network Insight, Mozilla's Firefox and Thunderbird, Microsoft, Apple (iCloud for Windows, Safari, macOS Monterey, Ventura, and Big Sur, tvOS, watchOS, iPadOS), Google's Chrome browser, Drupal, Samba, and Adobe (Experience Manager, Illustrator, and Adobe Campaign) products. If you use these products, make sure the software (or firmware) is updated.

### Other ways to report a scam:

- Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker: [www.bbb.org/scam-tracker/us/reportscam](http://www.bbb.org/scam-tracker/us/reportscam)
- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint)
- Report your scam to the FBI at <https://www.ic3.gov/complaint>
- Reported unwanted calls to the Federal Trade Commission's Do Not Call Registration. Online at <https://complaints.donotcall.gov/complaint/complaintcheck.aspx> or call 1-888-382-1222, option 3
- Office of the Inspector General: <https://oig.ssa.gov/>
- AARP Fraud Watch Network (any age welcome) Helpline 877-908-3360

Hackers Brief from Cyber Wyoming brought to you by



**FIRST FEDERAL**  
BANK & TRUST

307.674.0464 | [www.efirstfederal.bank](http://www.efirstfederal.bank)

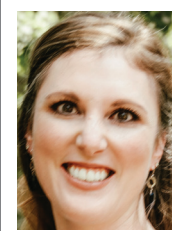
### GUEST COLUMN

# Make 2023 a 'thrifty' year

Well, we made it. Through minus 50 degree temps, an unbelievable amount of snow, Christmas, etc., we made it.

Through the 12 Days of Christmas, 12 Days of Giving, and 12 Days of Thrifting, my colleagues and I made it. Now we can (hopefully) take some time to reflect, set some goals and plan for the new year.

I've often heard the saying, "out with the old and in with the new." It's been on my mind lately. As Urban Thrift prepared for its holiday campaign, 12 Days of Thrifting, I was asked to share several photos of items on sale at the store. Two in particular caught my eye: an old VCR and an eight-track player. I remember chuckling and turning to my husband saying, "who on Earth would be in the market for one of those?" It wasn't even a day later that I saw a post on Sheridan Upcycle — someone was asking where they might find a VCR because they had a collection of VHS tapes they were hoping to watch over the holi-



LINDSAY KLUG

days. It served as a great reminder that, perhaps, we shouldn't be too quick to dismiss "the old" in favor of "the new." Some of you may have followed Urban Thrift's social media posts during the holidays. In case you didn't, we shared 10 reasons to shop at thrift stores. I won't include all of them but I would like to highlight a couple that align with the theme of this article. First, you may find items that are unique, vintage, and/or no longer made. Maybe I'm behind the times and eight tracks are making a comeback — regardless, if you're on the lookout for an "old" item, you'll be more likely to find one at a thrift store.

Another reason to thrift is the

ever-changing selection. I'd venture to guess that stores receive some hefty donations this time of year as people purge/give items away to make room for their newly received gifts. Whatever time of year, you're bound to find refreshed stock in a thrift store. Thrifting also gives you the opportunity to support local charities. Many stores are associated with a church or nonprofit organization, as is the case with Urban Thrift (all proceeds benefit The Hub on Smith). So, if "out with the old" is your style, at least you can feel good that your items may be repurposed or sold for a good cause.

As we approach 2023, I hope you can celebrate making it through another year. And maybe, instead of leaving all of 2022 behind, we can keep the best parts of it, reframe or repurpose some of its less glamorous qualities and let go of what we don't need. I wish you a very Happy New Year!

LINDSAY KLUG is development coordinator at The Hub on Smith.



MATTHEW GASTON | THE SHERIDAN PRESS

## Helping hand

Instructor Brenda Reynolds, right, works with Hannah Harlan during figure skating practice Thursday, Dec. 22, 2022.

# Tips for storing your vehicle this winter

BY RONALD MONTOYA EDMUNDS

Storing a vehicle because it's not needed is something that an owner might have to do at some point. It might be because it's a sports car that the owner wants to protect from wintertime driving,

or perhaps a vehicle that won't be driven for months because of a vacation or military deployment. Whatever the reason, there's a proper way to go about storing your vehicle.

If you simply let your vehicle sit on the street or in a

garage for an extended period, you may return to a dead battery, ruined tires or a potentially damaged engine.

The experts at Edmunds have put together a list of best practices when storing your vehicle. Most of these tips apply to vehicles that will be in storage for about 30 days or more. If you're only going out of town for a week or two, a modern car should be OK as-is. Older vehicles would benefit from getting started once a week if possible.

vehicle with gas before storing it will prevent moisture from accumulating inside the fuel tank and keep the seals from drying out. You should also purchase a fuel stabilizer to prevent ethanol buildup and protect the engine from gum, varnish and rust. A good fuel stabilizer can prevent the gas from deteriorating for up to 12 months.

### TEND TO THE BATTERY

An unattended 12-volt battery will eventually lose its charge. Get someone to start the car every two weeks and either let it run or drive it for about 15 minutes if possible. Driving the car periodically has several benefits. It will maintain the battery's charge and keep the engine and other components adequately lubricated. It is also a good idea to run the air conditioner to keep the parts in working order and the air quality fresh.

If you cannot arrange for someone to start the car, there are two other options. The low-tech solution is to disconnect the negative battery cable, but you'll lose the car's stereo presets and other settings. The better option is to purchase a battery tender.

### COVER IT UP

Storing your vehicle in a garage or storage facility protects it from the elements and keeps it at a relatively stable temperature. If your only choice is to leave the car outdoors, we recommend a weatherproof car cover or a car shelter, which will help keep the car clean and dry.

### TOP OFF YOUR FLUIDS

A number of automakers, such as Ford, recommend having an oil change performed before storing the vehicle for a while. Used engine oil has contaminants that could damage the engine if left unattended. Similarly, topping off your

**DINING ROOM HOURS:**  
Monday-Friday • 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

**BREAKFAST**  
7:00-9:00 a.m.

**LUNCH**  
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Entrée choice or soup/salad. Entrée only offered for home delivered meals.

<p><b>TUESDAY, DEC. 27</b> Chicken fried steak Mashed potatoes and gravy Veg medley Brownie</p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28</b> Lasagna florentine Garlic bread Steamed broccoli Mixed berry crumble</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY, DEC. 29</b> Shrimp scampi White roll Roasted squash Vanilla cake</p>
<p><b>FRIDAY, DEC. 30</b> Pork spareribs Sauerkraut Mashed potatoes w/gravy Steamed beets Fruit</p>	<p><b>MONDAY, JAN. 2</b> Chili Cinnamon roll Vegetable medley Fruit cocktail</p>	<p><b>Renew your registration now! Updates are subject to change.</b></p>

Find us on the internet at [www.thehubsheridan.org](http://www.thehubsheridan.org) or on Facebook: The Hub on Smith, a Center for All Generations.

Front desk: 307-672-2240  
Home delivered meals: 307-672-6079  
Loan closet: 307-672-1769  
Support center: 307-675-4954

Housing: 307-675-4957  
Fun and wellness: 307-675-4952  
Help at Home services: 307-675-1978  
Day Break adult care services: 307-674-496